HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Enquiries do not confirm the veracity of the news item relating to influx of Chinese rifles in Jharkhand area or preparation of hit-list by Jharkhand activists, as published in the news item.

(b) Some organisations having links with Christian Missionaries, namely, Jan Chetna Sabha Daltonganj (Bihar), Jashpur Samaj Sewa Samiti (MP) and Indian Council of Indigenous Tribal People. These organisations have been noticed for their interest in the movement for a separate State of Jharkhand and for highlighting the common perception of "threat" to tribal identity and culture.

(c) The State Govt. is taking appropriate steps for strict enforcement of law and order and maintenance of essential supply and services and even tempo of the life of the community in the area. The Central Govt. is monitoring the situation and would extend all possible help to the State Govt. in this regard.

Coca Cola project

1118. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proposals of Coca Cola submitted to the concerned authorities;

(b) what is the overall investment in the project, foreign and indigenous;

(c) whether Indian collaboration is envisaged or it is cent percent foreign company; and

(d) what are the reasons for which Government are considering cent percent foreign investment company for establishment in export field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings Inc., USA have applied for approval to establish a unit in the Noida Export Processing Zone for the manufacture of proprietory compound preparation and extracts to be used in the production of concentrates for non-alcoholic beverages. The scheme of production proposed by the company is in accordance with the regime of Export Processing Zones.

The Project proposal involves an investment of about Rs. 3.5 crores to generate exports over a five year period of about Rs. 25 crores of concentrates with a net foreign exchange realisation of Rs. 17 crores and a value addition of about 66 per cent. The entire investment will be foreign owned. The application is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) The establishment of 100% foreign owned companies is permitted under the present regime of Export Processing Zones. However, the Board is competent to take decisions after analysing all aspects of it.

Coca Cola proposal

1119. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coca Cola proposal is a high technological proposal;

(b) if so, what sort of technology the company is bringing and how this technology will be transferred and absorbed to help the country; and

(c) whether the use of Coca Cola brand names will be permitted to the licensees for the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (*SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI*): (a) to (c) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings Inc. USA have applied for approval to establish a unit in the Noida Export Processing Zone for the manufacture of proprietory compound preparations and extracts to be used in the production of non-alcoholic beverages. The technology involved relates to the production of a proprietory product. The operations of the unit are proposed to conform to the regime of Export Processing Zones and the transfer of the technology to the country does not arise. The application is under the consideration of the Board. Foreign brand names are generally not permitted for the sale of product in the Domestic Tariff Area.

Entry of Coca-Cola in Indian market

1120. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coca-Cola company is likely to enter into the Indian market and for this purpose, has submitted a proposal to the Central Government to set up a soft drink concentrate plant at NOIDA Export Processing Zones;

(b) whether Government propose to allow the Coca-Cola Company to enter into the Indian market; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the proposal submitted by the Company and what action has been taken thereon as yet by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) M/s. Coca Cola South Asia Holdings Inc., USA have applied for approval to establish a unit in the Noida Export Processing Zones for the manufacture of proprietory compund preparations and extracts to be used in the production of concentrates for non-alcoholic beverages. The scheme of production proposed by the company is in accordance with the regime of Export Processing Zones.

The Project proposal involves an investment of about Rs. 3.5 crores to generate exports over a five year period of about Rs. 25 crores of concentrates with a net foreign exchange realisation of Rs. 17 crores and a value addition of about 66%. The entire investment will be foreign owned. The application is under the consideration of the Board.

Writing off of loans given to farmers

1121. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported writing off of over Rs. 200 crores towards loans extended to the farmers by the Maharashtra Government;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Reserve Bank of India to extend any relief to the borrowers to meet the increasingly unfavourable climate in repayment of loans;